

# Getting Started with FIREMON



The following instructions are provided to help you get started using the FIREMON database. Steps marked *Optional* may be completed at a later time and are not required prior to data entry. Most of these instructions are related to the initial setup of FIREMON. For example, once you have entered species and item codes you will not need to enter them again, however you may need to add additional codes as new species and items are encountered. The **FIREMON Database Users Manual** and individual FIREMON methods documents provide supplemental information.

- 1) **Determine a Registration Code.** This is a four-character code that will be used for all of your databases. You can register a code at on the FIREMON website (<http://fire.org/firemon/main.htm>). Registering is not required but allows us to contact you when updates are available.
- 2) **Open FIREMON.** Double-click the JFIREMON icon on your desktop or click *Start → Programs* and select *JFIREMON*. JFIREMON is the Java-based data entry application that moves data into the FIREMON Microsoft® Access database.
- 3) **Rename the default FIREMON database.** Click *File → Save As...* from the main JFIREMON toolbar. Save the default FIREMON database (firemondata.mdb) as another name. The filename should be descriptive so that it will intuitively link the data with the project it will be used for. You can store all your data in one database or you can have multiple databases for multiple projects. (Optionally, JFIREMON will prompt you to do this the first time you close down a new database).
- 4) **Connect to a FIREMON database.** Click *File → Settings* on the main JFIREMON toolbar. In the *FIREMON Data* field enter the file name of the database you want to use. Optionally, you can navigate to a database by clicking the gray button to the right of the *Select Database File* field. Highlight the database file name and click the *Open* button to connect to the database. Generally, you will not change the *Photos Base Directory*, *Documents Base Directory* and *Analysis Tools Directory* fields. These fields are discussed in the **FIREMON Database User Manual**.
- 5) **Add plant species into the Species Codes table.** Users must populate a species list before entering data in FIREMON. Species codes entered in the table will be displayed in *Item* field dropdown lists in JFIREMON. To populate the species list click *Data Entry → Plant Species Codes* from the main JFIREMON toolbar. It may take a few seconds for the window to open as the list contains over 82,000 species. When it opens, click the *List* button at the bottom. When the *Record List*

window opens click the *Find* button on the lower left. Arrange the three windows so you can see all the fields on the *NRCS Plants Codes*, *Record List* and *Find* windows. To add a species, type a common or scientific name in the *Find What* field on the *Find* window, select the appropriate search field from the *Search Column* dropdown list and click *Find Next*. The first match will be highlighted in the *Record List* window. If it is not the species you want to add, search again or scroll through the list to find desired species, then click on it to highlight. When the species you want to add is highlighted in the *Record List* window click the *Add to Local Code* button on the *NRCS Plants Codes* window to add the species to the Species Codes table. Repeat these steps for every species you want to add to Species Codes table. You do not have to enter every species you think you will encounter however you will not be able to enter a species code in a JFIREMON *Item* field until the code has been entered in the Species Codes table. Close out by clicking the X button on the upper right of the *Find* and *Record List* windows, clicking the *Save* button on the lower part of the *NRCS Species Codes* window and clicking the X button on the upper right. This subject is described more completely in the **FIREMON Database User Manual**.

- 6) **Add Item Codes in Item Codes Table (Optional).** Users can enter general codes to be used for ground cover in the Other Item Codes table. These items will be included with your species codes on the *Item* dropdown lists. To add items, click *Data Entry → Other Item Codes* from the main JFIREMON toolbar. The table in the upper half of the *Other Item Codes* window contains a more complete list of item codes, the table in the lower half of the window lists the items that will be included on the *Item* dropdown lists. As you scroll through the upper table and locate item codes you want to use, click the code to highlight and then click *Add to Other Items*. If you want to add an item code not shown in the upper table, type the unique code you want to use in the *Selected Ground Cover Code* field, enter a short description in the field to the right and click *Add to Other Items*. Close out by clicking *Save Settings* at the bottom of the *Other Item Codes* window and clicking the X button in the upper right. As with species codes, you do not need to enter all of the item codes you think you will use at this time, however you will not be able to add a new item code in an *Item* field until the code has been entered in the Other Item Codes table. This subject is described more completely in the **FIREMON Database User Manual**.
- 7) **Start a Metadata table (Optional).** Metadata describes how data was collected. This information is not required but it is extremely important that you specifically describe your sampling methods in the Metadata table. Click *Data Entry → Metadata* from the main JFIREMON toolbar. Enter a unique, descriptive Metadata ID in the field at the top left of the *Metadata Entry Form* window. You will enter this same Metadata ID in the *MDID* field of the JFIREMON PD form to link plot information to the metadata that is associated with it. Type a title in *Subject* field to indicate what method or discussion the text relates to. Text can be pasted into the *Comments* window from other applications. Figures cannot be pasted into the *Comments* field but you can link figures them by entering their file name in the *Document Link* field. When a document or image file is stored in the *Documents Base Directory* folder listed in the *Configuration and Settings* window

- (see Step 4), it will be displayed when the hyperlinked *Document Link* text is clicked. See *Configuring the FIREMON database application* in the **FIREMON Database User Manual** for more information. Add a new *Subject* by clicking the new record button (right-facing dark triangle and asterisk) on the *MDData* record selector. To close the Metadata Table, click the X in the upper right corner of the *Metadata Entry Form*. You are not required to enter metadata before entering plot data but you will not be able to fill in the *MDID* field on the PD form until a Metadata table has been started.
- 8) **Start a Fire Behavior table (Optional).** The Fire Behavior table includes data describing the weather and fuel conditions at the time of a fire. Click *Data Entry* → *Fire Behavior* from the main JFIREMON toolbar. Enter a unique, descriptive Fire ID in the field at the top left of the *Fire Behavior Entry* form. You can record fire behavior data multiple times during a fire by clicking the new record button (right-facing dark triangle and asterisk) on the *FBDData* record selector. Data collected pre- and post-fire is linked to the Fire Behavior table using the *FireID* field on the JFIREMON PD form. See the **FIREMON Database User Manual** for more information. Click the X in the upper right corner of the *Fire Behavior Entry* form to close the window. You will probably not be entering fire behavior data the first time you open the database. You may enter data in the Fire behavior table at any time but you will not be able to fill in the *FireID* field on the PD form until a Fire Behavior table has been started.
  - 9) **Start entering data.** If not already selected, click the *PD* tab at the top of the *Plot Data Form*. Start by entering the required fields – *RegistrationID*, *ProjectID*, *PlotID*, *Date*, *Plot Type*, *Sampling Event* and *Units*. The *Plot Type*, *Sampling Event* and *Units* fields are in the *Plot Info* section of the PD form. After you have entered data for the PD form you can enter data on any of the other data entry forms, in any order, by clicking the appropriate tab. The **FIREMON Database User Manual** and individual FIREMON methods documents contain further data entry information.
  - 10) **Practice first.** Though we have tried to make JFIREMON as user friendly as possible it may take a few minutes to get comfortable using it. Enter some made-up data in the different forms you will be using. Try the *Delete* button the different forms to see what data gets deleted. Note that if you enter data on a number of forms, then hit the *Delete* button on the PD form, **ALL** of the current plot data will be removed from database. This is because the required fields in the FIREMON Access database are on the PD form. Deleting those fields means the database cannot keep track of the plot data on other forms and it is lost.